



The Connector

Special Representative Reta Jo Lewis
Office of Global Intergovernmental Affairs

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Did you Know?

- Secretary Clinton created the Office of Global Intergovernmental Affairs to engage state and local leaders on Department priorities.

- Special Representative Lewis has been involved with state and local outreach and coalition building since the early 1990s.

Secretary Clinton Creates the Office of the Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs

“[Special Representative Lewis] is leading the State Department’s efforts to build relationships between state and local officials in the United States and their counterparts around the world to benefit our objectives here.” *Secretary Hillary Clinton, May 7, 2010*

For the first time, the U.S. Department of State is focusing on outreach to state and local leaders to meet their international needs. This far-reaching initiative is fostering greater engagement among new partners both domestically and abroad as today’s foreign policy priorities show even more need for engagement. With Secretary Clinton’s efforts to implement 21st Century Statecraft, which include building partnerships across public, private and not-for-profit groups,

State and Regional actors have helped to promote department priorities abroad. Department priorities including governance, security, intellectual property rights, economic innovation, job creation, and health are also high priorities for State and Local officials in the United States. Thus, partnerships can help facilitate and assist additional sub-national actors on how to engage on these priorities and many more.

As a result, Secretary Clinton created the Office of the Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs (S/

SRGIA). S/SRGIA has experienced success since its creation by uniting previously unconnected communities while actualizing the Department and the administration’s diplomatic goals. This includes outreach to governors, mayors, city and county officials, tribal governments, and state and local organizations in the United States, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.



Secretary Hillary Clinton at the Swearing-In Ceremony of Special Representative Lewis.
DoS Photo.

U.S.-China Sub-National Dialogue

As part of Secretary Clinton’s focus on China, Special Representative Lewis is working with U.S. Ambassador to China, and former Governor of Utah, John Huntsman to strengthen U.S.-China cooperation at sub-national levels and to promote the establishment of state-to-province partnerships between the United States and China. The partnerships would support a wide range of economic, scientific, and cultural exchanges. The United States and China

agreed to strengthen cooperation at sub-national levels at the second Strategic & Economic Dia-

logue held in Beijing in May 2010.

A U.S. Government inter-agency working group led by Special Representative Lewis met with National Governors Association (NGA) Chair West Virginia Governor Manchin and NGA senior staff on July 10 on the sidelines of the NGA Annual Meeting in Boston to discuss launching a dialogue on strengthening sub-national cooperation between the United States and China.



Secretary Clinton with Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong after signing the People-to-People Exchange agreement, May 25, 2010.
DoS Photo.



State and Local Governments' Climate Change Discussions



Local Leaders from around the world met at the Resilient Cities 1st World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change in Bonn, Germany.

DoS Photo.

The U.S. Climate Action

Report was submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and highlighted the work of cities, counties, states and tribal communities and their significant role in climate protection, an initiative Secretary Clinton supports.

In May, Special Representative Lewis delivered the keynote address at the 1st World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change, sponsored by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. There local

leaders discussed local involvement in sustainable development.

S/SRGIA hosted a Smart Partnership Dialogue Global Engagement Series (GES), which featured Ambassador Frederick Barton, a representative on the Economic and Social Council of the U.N. The second GES event featured Dr. Jonathan Pershing,

"The United States is prepared to work with other countries toward a goal of jointly mobilizing \$100 billion a year by 2020 to address the climate change needs of developing countries." — Secretary Clinton, UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen Denmark December 17, 2009.

the Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Change. Both distinguished speakers provided an overview of the effects, impact, and importance of the United States' reengage-

ment with global climate change negotiations and emphasized the enormous wealth of knowledge and power local leaders have regarding the implementation of climate change policies.

Consultations with Tribal Governments



Tribal leaders are consulted on the review of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

DoS Photo.

In April, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice announced that the U.S. Government will review its position on the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration). Secretary Clinton engaged the Tribal community, and asked the Office of the Special Representative to facilitate government-to-government consultations seeking views from U.S. Tribal Leaders in connection with the review process. S/SRGIA held a series of Tribal consulta-

tions which made a significant contribution to the government-wide review process.

Special Representative Lewis led the first government-to-government consultation on June 21, on the margins of the National Congress of American Indians' Mid-Year Conference in South Dakota. The U.S. Government was represented by officials from federal agencies including the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, and the White House. The Department of

State hosted a second consultation in July, marking the largest gathering of tribal leaders at the Department for a consultation in a decade. A third meeting to discuss the Declaration is planned for tribal leaders this October.

"At this moment, agencies across our government are implementing detailed plans to increase coordination and consultation with tribal governments." — President Barack Obama, July 29, 2010.

State and Local Haiti Reconstruction Efforts



Participants at the U.N. Donor Conference in Martinique. Special Rep. Lewis led the U.S. delegation.

DoS Photo.

Secretary Clinton made the revitalization of Haiti a priority before the devastating January earthquake. Since the earthquake, the Department has worked closely with the Government of Haiti and other donor nations to enact a plan for recovery and reconstruction. In March, in support of Haitian mayors and state and local engagement in the road to reconstruction, Secretary Clinton asked Special Representative

Lewis to lead a delegation of American mayors and officials to the International Conference of World Cities and Regions in Martinique to support Haiti's reconstruction efforts. Many of the leaders represent cities with large Haitian-American populations.

"The United States pledges \$1.15 billion for Haiti's long-term recovery and reconstruction." — Secretary Clinton, March 31, 2010 at the U.N. International Donors Conference.

Participants from the international community engaged in robust dialogue focused on urban and regional development, local financing, economic development, and resource allocation. The delegations of national, state, and local leaders produced an outcome document which was presented before the U.N. International Donors Conference, *Toward a New Future for Haiti*, on March 31 in New York.



Engagement with Multilateral Organizations

“The Challenges of Urbanization are linked to everything from democracy and human rights to climate change and global health.” — Secretary Clinton at the World Urban Forum, March 26, 2010.



Secretary Clinton delivered remarks at the World Urban Forum.
DoS Photo.

Multilateral organizations like the UN and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) are now more focused on cities and the global trend towards urbanization. Secretary Clinton delivered

remarks via video At UN-Habitat’s Fifth World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in March. Special Representative Lewis delivered the United States’ closing statement to an audience that included state and local officials from across Brazil and the world. At the forum, U.S. mayors and local leaders engaged with their counterparts abroad to share their urbanization knowledge and expertise. At the OECD Urban Roundtable for Mayors and Ministers on Cities and Green Growth in June, the Special Representative highlighted opportunities for local

leaders to engage in partnerships domestically and abroad.



Special Representative Lewis met with state and local leaders at the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
DoS Photo.

Expanding EcoPartnerships with China



The first EcoPartnerships signing ceremony held in Beijing December 3rd, 2008 as part of the fifth meeting of the U.S.—China Strategic and Economic Dialogue.
DoS Photo.

U.S.-China EcoPartnerships, jointly established in December 2008, advances energy security, economic and environmental sustainability, and addresses climate change by encouraging voluntary cooperative partnerships between local and state/provincial governments, enterprises, and academic institutions, and other nongovernmental organizations. Current partners on the U.S.-side include the cities of

Denver, Greensburg, KS, Wichita, KS, as well as the Port of Seattle, Tulane University, and U.S. companies such as Energy Future Holdings and Floating

“EcoPartnerships leverage existing federal cooperation by providing opportunities to test, demonstrate and share policies, technologies, and new approaches.”

Windfarms.

EcoPartnerships leverage existing federal cooperation by providing opportunities to test, demonstrate and share policies, technologies, and new approaches at sub-national levels. The expansion of this program was launched at the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue in May. More information can be found here: <http://www.ecopartnerships.gov/>

In the Next Issue of *The Connector*

- Details of USG efforts, including S/ SRGIA’s role, for the African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum Secretary Clinton led that was held in Washington, DC and Kansas City.
- Also, S/SRGIA involvement in the U.S.—Nigeria Binational Commission, including outreach with US and Nigerian state Governors.

Contacting S/SRGIA

U.S. Department of State
C/O S/SRGIA
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

globalintergov@state.gov
202-647-7710
See S/SRGIA on the web:
<http://www.state.gov/s/srgia>